

REMARKS

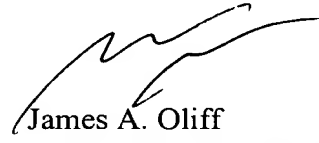
Claims 1-23, 26 and 87-102 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 24, 25 and 27-86 are canceled and claims 87-102 are added.

In reply to the Restriction/Election of species requirement, Applicants provisionally elect: I, A, (a), (1) and (i). Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12, 26, 87-89, 91, 93, 98 and 102 read on the combined elections.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all remaining groups/species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of the elected group/species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups/species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which is stated that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims can be examined without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement and the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: August 21, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--